

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-11

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-----108715 160147Z /61
P 152312Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 123721

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, EAIR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: FAA CIVIL AVIATION SECURITY SERVICE MEETING
TO DISCUSS THE CURRENT THREAT

REF: (A) STATE 117423, (B) STATE 117424, (C) TEL AVIV 06083

1. POINT OF REF (B) WAS TO INDICATE THAT WE HAD TAKEN
CAREFULLY INTO ACCOUNT ISSUES RAISED BY EMBASSY IN REF (C).
ALTHOUGH ISRAEL FALLS IN CATEGORY OF STATES MOST THREATENED
WHERE U.S. HAS EXTENSIVE AIR CARRIER OPERATIONS, THOSE
OPERATIONS ARE IN FACT WELL PROTECTED AT BEN GURION BECAUSE
OF ADVANCED STATE OF ISRAEL SECURITY. IN CONTRAST, IN-
CLUSION OF OTHER STATES IN PROPOSED FAA MEETING IS OF GREAT
IMPORTANCE TO PROTECTION OF U.S. AIR CARRIER OPERATIONS, AS
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ALL HAVE SOME SERIOUSLY FLAWED SECURITY PROCEDURES BY OUR
STANDARDS.

2. AS POINTED OUT BY EMBASSY, ISRAEL IS CONSIDERED ONE
OF WORLD'S LEADING EXPERTS ON AVIATION SECURITY. AS SUCH,
ISRAELIS WOULD HARDLY HAVE ANYTHING TO LEARN FROM LEVEL OF
PRESENTATION AT MEETING WHICH WILL BE NECESSITATED BY

PRESENT RELATIVE LACK OF TECHNICAL SOPHISTICATION OF MOST OF INVITEES. CONVERSELY, HOWEVER, TIME HAS NOT ARRIVED FOR

U.S. TO BE OFFICIALLY SPONSORING FORUM AT WHICH ISRAELIS WOULD TAKE LEAD IN SHARING THEIR EXPERTISE WITH OTHER PARTICIPANTS, SOME OF WHOM ARE ARABS, ON THIS KIND OF SUBJECT, NO MATTER HOW DESIRABLE THIS WOULD BE ON ITS MERITS.

3. DEPARTMENT CONSIDERED LIST OF PROPOSED INVITEES VERY CAREFULLY BEFORE SENDING OUT INSTRUCTIONS. THERE OBVIOUSLY HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN OUR DETERMINATION TO FIGHT EFFORTS OF ISRAEL'S OPPONENTS TO EXCLUDE ISRAEL FROM INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AND IN OTHER WAYS TO ISOLATE ISRAEL POLITICALLY. A QUICK GLANCE AT THE TRAFFIC ON THE SUBJECT MAKES THIS CLEAR. IN CASE AT HAND, HOWEVER, INVITATION TO ISRAEL WOULD BE UNWARRANTED IN TERMS OF AIM OF MEETING AND COULD IMPERIL OUR OWN VERY REAL INTERESTS IN SUCCESSFUL MEETING TO ADVANCE AMERICAN AVIATION SECURITY.

4. EMBASSY SHOULD USE ITS OWN DISCRETION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO INFORM ISRAELIS ABOUT MEETING. MEETING IS EVEN LESS POLITICALLY SIGNIFICANT THAN ANTI-HIJACKING CONTACT GROUP, NON-INCLUSION IN WHICH MADE MFA ECONOMIC DIRECTOR ELRON INITIALLY "A BIT UNHAPPY," NOR COULD MEETING BE CONSIDERED "A MAJOR INITIATIVE." TO RECAPITULATE: TECHNICAL REASONS CITED IN REF (A) AND CONFIRMED IN REF (B) DO CONSTITUTE CONFIDENTIAL

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REASON FOR DEPARTMENT'S DECISION NOT TO INVITE ISRAEL. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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